

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRETOR 00394 230832Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 EB-08 COME-00 ACDA-12
MCE-00 TRSE-00 AID-05 IGA-02 DOTE-00 DODE-00 /075 W
-----106163 230838Z /17

P R 230705Z JAN 78

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0266

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 0394

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: BEXP, PARM, ESTC, SF

SUBJECT: AIRCRAFT SALES TO SOUTH AFRICA

REF: STATE 13703

1. WE NOTE FROM 207 EXPORT LICENSE APPLICATIONS LISTED
REFTEL THAT VIRTUALLY ALL CONSIGNEES FOR FIXED-WING
AIRCRAFT ARE DEALERS IN JOHANNESBURG AREA. WE UNDERSTAND
AS RESULT OF PHONE CHECK WITH SALES MANAGER OF AIRCRAFT
DISTRIBUTORS (A SUBSIDIARY OF COMMAIR, CESSNA'S AGENT IN
SOUTH AFRICA) THAT CESSNAS LISTED ARE MIXTURE OF THOSE
FOR WHICH ORDERS ALREADY PLACED BY PRIVATE BUYERS AND PLANES
FOR INVENTORY WHICH COMMAIR COMMITTED TO ACCEPT EACH YEAR
FROM CESSNA.

2. ACCORDING TO JANE'S ALL THE WORLD'S AIRCRAFT, SCORPION
IS A HOBBYIST TYPE OF HELICOPTER USING OUTBOARD MARINE ENGINE
AND OFTEN SOLD IN KIT FORM. WOULD NOT, AT FIRST GLANCE, APPEAR
TO BE OF CONCERN FROM MILITARY OR PARAMILITARY POINT OF VIEW.

3. WE WOULD PROPOSE TO VISIT EACH OF THREE CONSIGNEES
IN JOHANNESBURG AREA AND ALSO IMPORTER OF SCORPIONS IF
DEPARTMENT WISHES. WE WOULD ASK FOR INFORMATION ON
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ULTIMATE END-USERS AND LEARN AS MUCH ABOUT THEM AS
CONSIGNEES ABLE OR WILLING TO DIVULGE. WE WOULD ALSO
EXPLORE WITH CONSIGNEES PRIVATE AIRCRAFT MARKET HERE,
SALES METHODS, ETC. WHICH MAY ENABLE US TO ADVISE
DEPARTMENT FURTHER ON VARIOUS ALTERNATIVES FOR MONITORING
END-USE.

4. IN PRETORIA 175, WE INDICATED WE COULD CONDUCT ONLY
SMALL NUMBER OF END-USE CHECKS WITH PRESENT STAFF. AFTER
FURTHER CONSIDERATION, BELIEVE WE COULD DETAIL ONE
OFFICER FOR THIS PURPOSE FULLTIME FOR SHORT PERIOD
(E.G. TWO-THREE WEEKS) EITHER TO CONDUCT INTENSIVE CHECKS
OR ASSIST INDIVIDUAL ON TDY FROM STATE OR COMMERCE.

5. PLEASE ADVISE IF WE SHOULD PROCEED WITH CONTACTS
DESCRIBED PARA 3 ABOVE.
BOWDLER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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